[29th March 1947

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) No. The Government of India have constituted a Board called the " Commodities Prices Board". This Board will maintain a continuous review over the prices of all commodities and assist the Government in the very difficult task of fixing prices by advising them as to the prices or price levels to be fixed for controlled commodities so that the best interests of the commodity may be served. The survey of the prices of the nature referred to in the question will be undertaken by the Board.

" (b) The Government are compiling and reviewing every week index numbers of prices of various commodities for 13 selected rural centres in the Province. In this connection the prices of food and non-food articles prevailing in these centres are being collected and recorded every week."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the price of paddy fixed now is economical to the agriculturist?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As far as possible, the economic condition of the agriculturists is predominating in the minds of the Government. The prices now fixed are such that while answering the price level of the consumer, they also see that the producer also gets a fair share of profit."

Effect of reduced intake of food on youngsters.

* 126 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Wil the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to study the effects of reduced intake of food due to reduced rations especially on children and young persons?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The following steps have been taken to study the effects of reduced intake of food due to reduced rations especially on children and young persons :—

(i) A periodical examination of vulnerable groups such as infants, children, adolescents and nursing and pregnant woman for clinical signs of under-nutrition and malnutrition by the Health staff.

(ii) Measurements of heights and weights of groups of children in deficit areas and comparison of these data with those of standard biometric tables.

(iii) Analytical studies of mortality figures in different age groups from such of the causes as are directly or indirectly attributable to quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in food, e.g., dysentery, diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, starvation, etc., and comparison of infantile mortality rates, maternity mortality rates and general death rates with corresponding periods in previous years.

(iv) Observation of cases treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries.

Periodical reports are being received by the Government on the above items. No abnormal features have been observed so far, as a result of rationing and there is no particular increase in mortality amongst the vulnerable groups of population from any cause directly attributable to food shortage.

"The Nutrition officer attached to Food Department has also proposed a scheme for the examination of school going children between the ages of about 5–12 in different areas of the Presidency, for signs of food deficiency diseases. A close watch on the health of the vulnerable population is being maintained. The free distribution of milk to elementary school children in certain deficit districts and the supply of free midday meals to elementary school children under the compulsory Elementary Education Scheme are intended to offset the effect of reduced rations."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Is it a fact, Sir, that midday meals are being stopped from the 1st April to school children?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"I think so; because it is mentioned in the budget."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"One of the means by which you wanted to prevent under-nutrition or mal-nutrition is sacrificed evidently may I say wantonly!"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I suppose you dealt with this in the budget".

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Yes, Sir."

Lands under the Tungabhadra Project.

* 127 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the inauguration of the Tungabhadra Project was notified in the official gazette;

(*b*) how many acres of land coming under the project area have been sold in each year and at what price, after the said notification, with reference to each taluk of Bellary and Kurnool districts;

(*c*) how many persons have purchased more than 50 acres and below 100 acres in the said area and at what price; and

(*d*) how many have purchased more than 100 acres and at what price in respect of each taluk referred to above?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"(*a*) 1941.

"(*b*) Talukwar particulars of sale of lands, value per acre, etc., are not available, as the ayacut of the project has not been fixed yet.

"(*c*) & (*d*) The question does not arise."